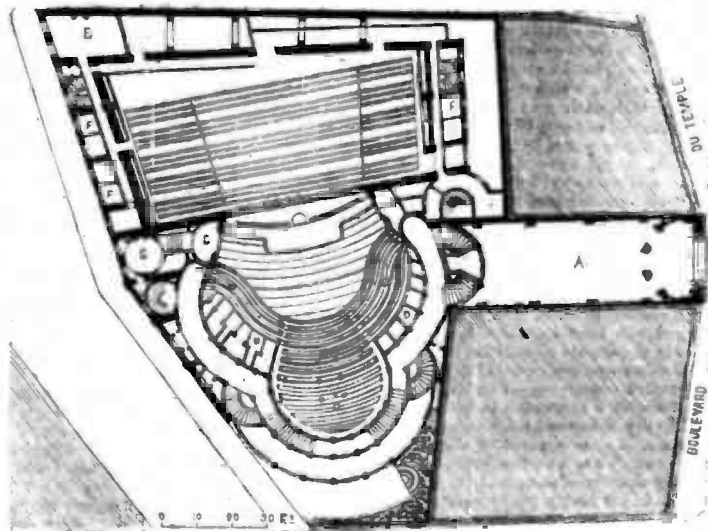


PLAN OF THE "THEATRE MONTPENSIER."



REFERENCES.

- A Vestibule, forming the entrance: over it, on the first-floor, a saloon.
 B Dress-circle.
 C The box of the Duke de Montpensier, and circular saloon adjoining.
 D The upper boxes and one of the galleries.
 E Green-room.
 F Actors' rooms.

CANOPY AND STATUE AT COLOGNE.

DURING the middle ages the struggle between the nobility and the merchants for power ended in a rivalry of state between the latter bodies and the former; and the Hotels de Ville, and other buildings connected with trade, in many instances eclipsed the private mansions of the nobility. The wealth of the merchantmen of the low countries enabled them to erect edifices that, as works of Art, are the admiration of their posterity. The utmost elaboration of ornament and costliness of decoration were indulged in, and even the store-houses of the cities came in for some share of ornament. From the year 1260, when Cologne, uniting with Lubeck, Denzig, and Bruges, became one of the principal of the Hans towns, its traders enjoyed, for a long period, the exclusive privilege of supplying the growing wants and rising luxuries of that portion of the world. The advantages afforded by the Rhine, and the central situation of the city in the western part of Germany, secured a monopoly of trade, and an abundance of wealth, which did not decrease until the interference of the clergy (rendered powerful and wealthy by rich endowments and by the celebrity of the relics contained in its many churches, which brought pilgrims from all parts of Europe), occasioned the banishment of the Jews in 1425, and of the Protestants in 1618. This occasioned the loss of upwards of 1,400 of the most opulent families, who, settling in other and less bigotted towns, became destructive rivals to the commerce and wealth of Cologne, which gradually sank into comparative decay. The subject of our cut is a relic of its ancient glories,—it is a statue and canopy over one of the doors of the Store-house. The statue is of freestone, and much decayed, but the canopy is in a less ruinous state. The tracery is of lead-work, in the flamboyant style, and is rich in its detail.

OXFORD DIOCESAN SOCIETY FOR BUILDING CHURCHES AND PARSONAGE HOUSES.—On the 8th inst. a numerous meeting was held in Oxford to establish a diocesan society for building churches and parsonage houses. The Earl of Abingdon presided; and the Bishop of Oxford, Mr. G. Harcourt, M.P., and others, stated the scheme, and moved resolutions establishing the society, which were carried unanimously. In making grants, the merits of the plans proposed are to be considered: in cases of doubt, the opinion of an architect on the plans may be taken, provided that not more than two guineas be required for that opinion.

ANCIENT GOTHIC LEADWORK.

